Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue #101 December 2008

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Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue 101 - December 2008 www.igkt.net

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front:

The editor has a door-knocker at his home with the words "Knot Home" engraved thereon. This Black Widow seems to have taken the title to heart! Photo and Photoshop by Kim Moore.

Back:

Wolker Margrif working on a fender at this year's half-yearly General Meeting in Cuxhaven - story at page 16.

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Letter from the Editor

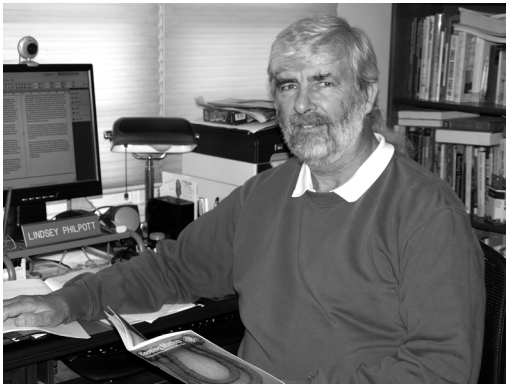
Hello! To all of my fellow knot-tyers I bid you a very fond and warm greetings from the left coast of a sunny and warm (sometimes a little too warm, as the fire season is upon us!) California. You will likely have noticed from the front page and from the contents layout that someone new is trying his hand at re-creating your letters, articles, photographs and pieces of incredibly artistic drawings, in the hopes of getting out the message that - nostalgia not being what it used to be - things are a little different. I hope to hear plenty from you all about what works for you, what doesn't and what you would prefer to see. I am not going to be so bold as to say I'll include your musings, but I will attempt to include the majority thoughts in an egalitarian manner.

Having got that first thought on paper, the rest of my work here is nearly done! You will by now have some idea of what I did to your magazine - yours, because it is you who write it, not me. Let me tell you something about myself, something about where I see your magazine moving in the future and then I would like to hear something from each of you.

I was born and brought up in Devonshire, attending Devonport High School for Boys, Plymouth and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School for Boys, Crediton. Ask me about either one and I will bend your ear for quite a while. I have worked as an architect, a structural engineer and as a civil engineer, as well as a general dog's-body. I have also worked in Bahrain and now in the USA, as well as working for several consulting engineers. I now own a small business at www.theknotguy.com, which is not what you might think it to be - I consider life to be one great knot to be made or unmade. I volunteer on the brig "Pilgrim" in Dana Point harbor, California and am proud to hold a Master/Mate's ticket for up to 100 miles offshore. I have just completed my second Master's degree (in Structural Engineering) and I am a lifelong student of the School of Hard Knocks. Life is all about learning, and I learn more everyday!

I love sailing and have sailed in three corners of the world, looking to

sail in the South China Seas and the Tasman Sea at some point. Kim and I have sailed together on the 65-foot sloop "Alaska Eagle" from California to Hawaii, on the 110-year old tug "Katahdin" in Alaskan waters (ask about her fenders), the sloop "Quest" to Mexico, for Earthwatch on a 98-year old topsail ketch " Toftevaag" in the Mediterranean, counting dolphins, pilot whales and sperm whales, and on our own racing/cruiser "Celerity" , a Morgan 27 with a green hull!
I am a father of four, three boys and a girl. Two of my boys live close by in California and my son and daughter by an English rose live near their Mum in Bristol. I am married to a lovely young lady from New York, NY, Kim by name, and we have been sharing the house where we live for the last 17 years. Indeed some of you were gracious enough to visit with us on the occasion of the Pacific Americas Branch's tenth anniversary, a Branch of which I am very proud to have been a founding member and past President.



Thanks to this opportunity, to be the editor of Knotting Matters, I can now practice my English skills on anyone willing to read them. Please know that I can read and write gibberish, English and American in several dialects, some French, a little German and some Spanish. If any of you wish to have your work in any of those or another of the world's languages, please send it along.

It is my wish that your magazine be truly International, so please feel free to write in a language other than English; I also welcome technical articles - if that is what you want! Do send your drawings and excellent quality photographs of your truly astounding knot-work and I will do my darndest to get it all in here - in your magazine!
Sincerely yours, **Lindsey Philpott**

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This letter is from a knot-tying civilian, so please don't ask me anything about Carrick bends or Highwayman's hitches. However, one of my eleven-year-old characters (I'm a children's book writer) is an avid, accomplished "member" of the IGKT. So when my issues of *Knotting Matters* arrive, I read them with his eyes—not an easy task for a middle-aged woman—and we are always excited: he by new knots to try, solutions for knotty problems, photos of extraordinary knot projects, and announcements of events, and me by the plot and character ideas that spring from these publications. I want to thank the many IGKT members who have helped me by sharing their expertise, especially Barry Brown, Des Pawson, Jimmy Williams, Joe Schmidbauer, and Geoffrey Budworth, with very special thanks to Lindsey Philpott for going above and beyond in helping me grasp specific knot subtleties and for editing (usually on a moment's notice) the knot-related passages in my novels for accuracy.

Susan Patron

Dear Editor,

While reading Knotting Matters No. 98, my attention was drawn to a very interesting article from Knut Canute: "Conjecture, Hypothesis, Rule or law" but I'm afraid some little errors appear in the wording. On the first paragraph, it said that : "only Turk's head with a combination of bights and leads sharing a common numerical divisor could be tied in a single strand..." the proper formulation should have been: "only Turk's head with a combination of bights and leads not sharing a common numerical divisor could be tied in a single strand...", that is to say exactly the opposite. Further on, in the fourth paragraph, the same error appears: "...a mathematical proof would have to establish that even this metaphysical image of mine was [subject] to the same need to have a common divisor for its bights and leads if it was to be tied with a single strand"; I guess the author most probably wanted to say: "...this metaphysical image of mine was [subject] to the same need not to have a common divisor for its bights and leads if it was to be tied with a single strand."

Except these two unfortunate points, probably due to hasty time for checking everything before the deadline for printing, I fully agree with the arguments developed by the author and the way he clearly describes the difference between a conjecture, a hypothesis, a rule and a law. Clifford Ashley and G. Taber only put forward a conjecture about the law of the common divisor for Turk's heads and nothing else. The irrefutable proof of that law belongs to A. Georg Schaake and Dr. John C. Turner from the University of Waikato, New Zealand. Despite these errors, Knotting Matters is

undoubtedly an important publication for all knot tyers; we learn a lot of things while reading it. After all, between KM readers there is no "common divisor"" and this publication remains our most favourite link with all the IGKT members around the world.

Yours faithfully,

Antoine Leroy, IGKT France

Knotting Matters on CD

by Colin Grundy

At the 20th Birthday celebrations of the IGKT at Fareham in 2002, it was announced that a project was underway to create digital copies of all previous editions of Knotting Matters and make them available on CD.

As with everything in the Guild, this is done by volunteers who give up their spare time for the benefit of the membership. To recreate at least 75 issues of KM as digital copies takes time. Even then it is not finished, as a lot of work has to be done to create bookmarks and links to make them searchable, so that they will be of benefit to you as members.

Over the past few years a small International team has been working in the background to this end. Their efforts are nearing fruition, and it is hoped to have copies available in approximately 12 months time. How these will be distributed, will be up to the IGKT Council to decide. It may be on CD, memory stick or the Internet, that has yet to be decided. Watch this space!

Dear All

First of all can I apologise for the lateness of this message? My intention was to have something included in the KM following the AGM, but I didn't do it straight away as I should have done, and it completely slipped my mind. This morning I was filling the last remaining spaces in our bags and I had a final check of the few bits of jewellery that I was taking and there it was!!! I really feel bad about it - it seems so ungrateful for such a lovely present which is just my style.

I must say that I have enjoyed being your Web Administrator - apart from one or two hiccups which were fairly easily overcome. The task has now been passed to Glenys Chew - many thanks for stepping into the breach, Glenys. And of course you still have our very good Webmistress, Mel Pedley, in overall charge of the website.

Many thanks for the pendant and for your good wishes. Jeff and I intend to meet as many knotty persons as we can Down Under, and hope to be able to attend the Wooden Boat Festival next February, if we get round in time, that is. If anyone is interested in following our progress, Mel has designed a neat website for us www.wydon.co.uk with a blog which I am hoping to update regularly - this will depend on what sort of Internet access we can find. There is also a Guestbook and a map to show our route. This should also be updated with our current location.

Thank you all again

Best wishes, **Lesley Wyatt**

Knots from The Mouse Pad

Dear Fellow Knot Tyer,

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my apologies to those members who have been disappointed when they have tried to order Guild Supplies. Due to work commitments I have suffered long delays in getting your orders to you. During the summer period I had many bookings to host knot tying workshops and displays, this caused a backlog to build-up. Hopefully now that winter is upon us I will start to catch up.

Once again I have missed a guild meeting, but Linda and Bruce Turley have filled me in with all the details. I think that the members of the German Branch all deserve our congratulations in hosting another successful meeting on behalf of the Guild.

The next meeting will be our A.G.M. at Nottingham, so I take this opportunity to invite you to forward nominations to stand as Trustees of the Guild. I will have been Hon Sec for 3 years and I will be standing down, so we definitely need a replacement for me.

Last weekend our Northwest Branch held a local get together at Quarry Bank Mill. It was nice to catch up with all the latest knot gossip. Due to the poor weather we did not have many visitors to our display. We took the opportunity to start to plan for next year. I would like to thank all the knot tyers who supported the event.

With this letter I would like to wish all good fortune to Lindsey Philpott in producing our magazine. I am looking forward to receiving K.M.101 and seeing the changes that a new Editor will bring. I hope that Colin is enjoying his well earned rest after producing such excellent work over the last few years.

Happy Knotting, Dave Walker Hon' Sec' IGKT.

Recent Additions To The IGKT Library

ROPES – *R Hood Haggie & Son*, Ltd Newcastle on Tyne 3rd Catalogue of Ropes, Blocks, Winches and fittings. A true gem, full of historical information.
Donated by Jane Bamford - UK

MAKING A SAILOR'S TRADITIONAL DITTY BAG AND SEA BAG – *Louis Bartos (Sailmaker, Ketchikan, Alaska)* - A comprehensive text on the making of a ditty bag and sea bag, representative of a tradition in the days of sail.
Donated by Dan Callahan – Alaska

ESKIMO Yo-Yo - *Christopher Kiana Sr.*
Original 100 Alaska Eskimo Yo-Yo Stratagems Instructional Book.
Donated by Dan Callahan – Alaska

PROUD TO BE HIGH – *Tony Fisher., FNZEI* – Revised and updated May 2008.
Donated by Tony Fisher – New Zealand.

HARNESS INDUCED PATHOLOGY (Suspension Trauma) – Adaptation of the article in KM86 by *Robert Chisnall.*
Donated by Tony Fisher – New Zealand

The RYA Handbook of KNOTS, SPLICES & ROPEWORK – *Gordon Perry & Steve Judkins*, superbly illustrated by Steve Lucas
Donated by Gordon Perry - UK

Our grateful thanks to all our donors for giving so freely of their treasures!

LETTER FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Hello Fellow Knot Tyers

I am pleased to be addressing the Guild, in this my first letter as President from Charleston, South Carolina USA. I am humbled to have been chosen by Ken Yalden to follow him as president, as well as all of the past presidents in our 26-year history. As Ken has stated in the past few Knotting Matters, the running of the Guild is in great hands and with today's communication tools at hand, it is easier to bring in members into the operations from around the world, thus making us truer in being an International Guild in name, members and officers.

I wish also to thank Ken Nelson for staying on as Chairman of the Executive Council and all of the present Council members. Their time spent on the day-to-day operations and their years of service should never go unnoticed or unappreciated by our membership. We all owe each of them a huge debit of gratitude. This also goes out to all past officers as well. The last two who need to be recognized are Colin Grundy and Lindsey Philpott. Colin has served us wonderfully as KM's editor through Issue 100. Thank you greatly, time for a little rest. Now with this Issue 101, I thank Lindsey for taking the helm of what is the true flagship of the Guild, Knotting Matters. We start our adventure together and I know I am in good company.

To introduce myself more fully, I view myself as a practical knot tyer. I was born into the family of a US Navy Officer, who had worked his way up from a first class seaman. Being around water and boats meant that knots were an early and constant lesson taught by my father. With this came growing up around Naval vessels which at the time were kept to Bristol fashion. It was here that I learned to just watch as knots and techniques were applied aboard ship and a desire to learn more decorative knots arose. Instead of the US Navy, I became an Oceanographer and am employed by the South Carolina Marine Recourses Division. Working in the fisheries field, I am lucky to be able to put to use many forms of knots.

My introduction to the IGKT came in the mid 1980s from Brion Toss, rigger and author. We met in Charleston while he was on tour promoting his first book. After an hour or more of tying and talking together, he said that he knew just the group that I needed to join. To many, this sounds so all too familiar.He promptly wrote down Nigel's, our Hon. Sec. for many years, address and the slow system of mail communication proceeded.

Years went by before I realized the actual extent and makeup of the Guild, other than the contents of Knotting Matters. This came about when I started to meet other members. The first was a fellow American, Al Trout who, sadly, passed away a number of years ago. Through him, I began attending gatherings and demonstrations at boat shows outside my area and finally the first meeting of the NAB in New Bedford USA. He is the one of those friends whom you truly miss at gatherings and wish for more time to just sit together and tie a few knots.

Yet it was the chance meeting with Gordon Perry, on one of his business trips to the States, that I learned the true meaning of belonging to an international organization. His contact has led me to better appreciate the worldly interest, diversity and complexity in the art we practice, the materials we employ, and the personalities of the people that make up the Guild. I also appreciate that he serves as our librarian andlook forward to seeing his latest book in published form.

From here, I look forward to getting to know all about the gatherings, shows and workings of our many Branches, their areas and the cast of characters of each country. I also hope that the economy of the world comes to a stable state, which may allow me, in my lifetime, to travel and visit. Please feel free to contact me, either by email or the slow mail service, with any concerns or thoughts on how best we can bind others and ourselves into the art and science of knot tying. Or just drop a line to communicate knots. It is why I am a member and I hope others as well.

Smooth turns
Dan Machowski

[*A candid shot of our new President taken at the IGKT AGM in 2007 - nice hat! - Ed.*]

LETTER FROM A MOUNTAIN-BOOT-LACE

As told to Willeke van der Ham

Hello to all,
Please allow me to introduce myself, I am a shoestring or, to use my proper name, a mountain-boot-lace, (although I have never even been near a real mountain boot.)
I have been living with this knotty Dutch woman for most of the last 2 decades, and that were almost twenty years of misery.
I mostly reside in her pocket, with a couple of mates, but at times I am thrown in a bag or left in a cupboard for a while.

The things that I have to put up with; don't get me started.
Ah, you asked.
When she has one of her crazy ideas I can find myself being used to tie the strangest objects together for transport, or I am used as a carrier bag carrier, or as a shoulder string for a roll of string.
I have been a shoulder string for a netted bag, but also a belly constraint on a netted backbag [AKA *back-pack – Ed.*]. Only to be replaced by some fancy cotton contraption when I had just become used to the new job.

Tying things to a bike is not strange to me; I have held countless objects to her bikes. Rather normal are some polyethylene bags, but have you ever had to hold some baskets, or a stereo set? The oddest thing might well have been a wheelchair, an almost adult size at that, when she was still active in scouting. One of the kids had to be transported, and his wheelchair, by bicycles. Luckily I was not chosen to fix that oversized child seat to the other bike, which would have been beyond my capacities.
Yes, I have to admit that I did not hold all those things alone, often my mates helped me, sometimes also some bungee cords, you know, the kind most people use when they have to fix things to a transport temporarily.
Latest in transport use was to be tied to the handlebars of her recumbent trike, so she could steer while pushing it. Poor me, having to guide the bike all the time (hard work, as she had a flat)!
And that is not even the worst I have had to do, at times she uses me as part of her clothing; I have kept her trousers in place, in lieu of a proper belt (and I have done other jobs in the clothing sphere I am not going to talk about; even a shoelace has his pride.)
I would rather work as a proper lanyard, as I have done on occasion, keeping tools or even a camera from falling on the floor. Or to carry a water bottle during the walks of a whole walking holiday, till she made herself a proper sling for that.

And talking about slings, I have also been the other kind, the weapon, mostly just to explain how to make one, but at times I have slung a few tennis balls. I have even been tied into a ball to be slung with.

And when she does not use me to tie things together, she often just ties me in knots. I have been tied into the most terrible knots. Which you ask? Any you can name, and then some.
Or I have been braided, just me, or with some mates. Till none of us could tell anymore which zig and which zag belonged to whom.

A few times a year she takes me travelling. We then go to a knot tyersmeeting. Fun, she says.
More knots, more funny things happening to me. Being tied into animals is bad enough, but she even made me into flowers!
At least at those meetings I meet other bits of string, living in other pockets.
Misery shared is only half misery, they sometimes say.

[Additional pieces of ropework from the World Port Days in Rotterdam - see page 29- Ed.]

[Keyrings for sale at the World Port Days in Rotterdam - Ed.]

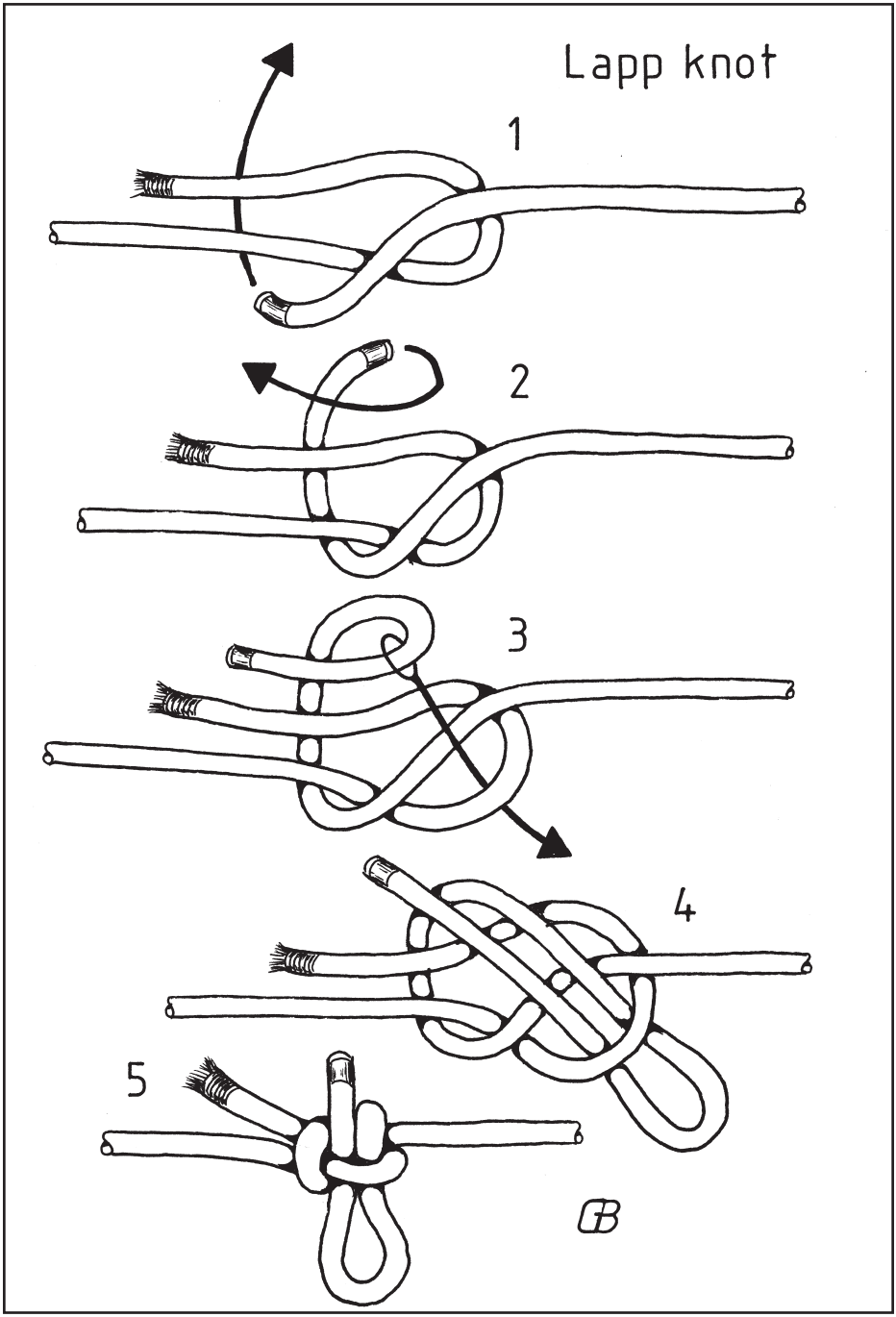
KNOTMASTER SERIES NO. 38

'Knotting ventured, knotting gained.'

Lapp knot

This is perhaps the simplest yet most effective of slipped bends and binding knots. Simply tug the draw-loop free and in a second the knot melts away, leaving only a memory of its self. There is nothing more to undo.

* Form a loop or tie an eye in one end of a lanyard, waist-tether or whatever, and wrap the other end around it [fig's 1 and 2].
* Tuck a bight or loop down through, exactly as shown [3 and 4].
* Tighten the knot, taking care to trap the end within the three-part crown [5].


Lapp knot
1
2
3
4
5

IGKT Half Yearly Meeting Held

on 10th-12th October 2008

Fischereimuseum Cuxhaven Germany.

The IGKT 2008 Half Yearly Meeting, held in Cuxhaven, was a truly International meeting; organised and hosted by Karl Bareuther and Peter Willems and the German Members. The venue was a light and bright Sea Fishing Museum, where the staff were most accommodating and enthusiastic to all our needs.

The Guild displays were varied and individual, enthusiastically presented by a good mix of International members from Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Sweden, UK and USA, all of whom were willing to teach and learn in a mixture of languages.
For the Knot Tying enthusiasts, the 'Knot Fever' of the meeting was a Single Strand Mathew Walker variant, the popularity of which was much like the Pineapple Knot at 2K2. Quickly 'dubbed' the "Tibor Knot" after Tibor Fuzi (who was wearing one about his neck) he was pinned down by Marilee Warner from USA, to give a master class on the said 'Tibor Knot'. Marilee herself was busy teaching others how to make a miniature cord turtle, or in Andree Treffenfeld's case how to build an alien. Having said that, Andree was a splendid diplomat and his translation skills ensured the smooth running of events and added to a wonderful weekend.

The formalities of the IGKT Half Yearly meeting took place in the Pilot's room on the Saturday morning, with coffee and a welcome speech from the Immediate Past President. On completion of the main meeting, the German members were asked to remain in the Pilot's room and they also requested that I be present. They then voted in the formation of 'The IGKT Deutsche Sektion' (German Branch), this proposal was fully endorsed by the IGKT Membership Secretary Bruce Turley and Linda Turley the IGKT Treasurer who can now work closely with the new branch.

The raffle was as ever a show in itself, with even the newer members entering into the spirit of things with enthusiastic audience participation and the much admired macramé bag of Jorgen Friis-Christensen flying off the table, which lead to further sales of his remaining stock for the rest of us who had not been so lucky.

The Knot Supper was again a special evening with many new friendships made while devouring excellent German fare; with some sixty Knot Tyers eating, talking and knotting, on occasions at the same time. The evening ended with a memorable group photograph in the restaurant.

The final event that I would like to mention was the quiet supper on the Sunday evening shared with Peter, his wife and a group of Knot Tyers all who are either active Council members present or past. The toast was made with a glass of schnapps and it was "The IGKT. Deutsche Sektion" PROST!!
All in all it was a very good weekend for the Guild.

Ken Yalden
Immediate Past President.

The Eskimo Bowline
by Owen K. Nuttall

It could be assumed that the first time a Westerner had seen this knot was on an Inuit Sledge collected by Sir John Ross in 1818 when he was searching for the mythical North West passage. He thought that he was the first outsider to be seen by the Inuit people. History later proved that Eskimos had hunted and traded with Vikings hundreds of years earlier.

The Vikings settled in Greenland in 986 then travelled to Ellesmere Island, inhabited by the Inuit. The Viking name for the Inuit was Skaerlings (*AKA Skræling or Skrælingar, according to my encyclopedia – Ed.*]. The Vikings had permanent settlements in Lanse Aux Meadows, located in Newfoundland, and in Labrador, Canada. The Vikings called this new found territory Vinland. The Vikings not only travelled West from their own country, they travelled South from Scandinavia to North Africa via the coasts of France, Northern Spain, Portugal, Southern Spain, sacking Sevilla *en route* to Morocco, making settlements along the way. They travelled across the Baltic to Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine in the ninth and tenth centuries (there is a statue of a Longship with Varangians aboard in Kiev). They traded and fought their way South to the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, and settled in Constantinople for a long number of years as mercenaries.

A later reference to the Eskimo Bowline was by Franz Boas who, in 1834 collected several Eskimo knots (whilst visiting a whaling station on Baffin Island), which he later published.
The word Eskimo is a name that encompasses a wide range of people. In the North (Siberia) they are called Yupic. In Alaska they are Yupic and Inupic. In Canade they are Inuit and Métis. In an Act, passed in 1982 [*Canadian Constitution Act, 1982, Section 25 & 35 – Ed.*], they were recognized as Aboriginal people of Canada. Collectively they range from Siberia to Canada, from the coastal areas of the North Pacific to Greenland, where they settled during the little Ice Age at the end of the eleventh century, which was already occupied by the Vikings [*Greenland, not the eleventh century – Ed.*]. With the climate change the Inuit adapted better than the Vikings, who then left for warmer climes.

The Eskimo Bowline is often called the Inuit or Boas Bowline. The singular for Inuit is Inuk, meaning man or person.

In KM #7, 1984, Geoffrey Budworth asked if anyone had a name for this knot.

In KM #8, 1984 Ian Marson (Merchant seaman), also a former West Yorkshire member, wrote saying it was used by the Panama boatmen to bend their heaving lines to the shore mooring wires in the locks of the Panama Canal. The boatmen called this the Panama Bowline. In the same KM *[#8 – Ed.*], Geoffrey Budworth wrote that he was given a photo-copy by a Parisian who was married to a Russian, who called it a Mongolian Knot.

When Geoffrey Budworth (KM #27, 1989) was asked to study the Inuit sledge in the British Museum, brought back by Sir John Ross, the sledge contained numerous knots, one the Inuit Bowline.

With the Viking's knowledge of ropes and with their seamanship in their Longboats, was there an exchange of knot craft whilst trading and hunting with the Inuit, or justdifferent cultures arriving at the same knot in different countries? Who knows?

In Ian's drawing of this bowline on Fig. 1, the working end should be pulled down first to arrive at Fig. 2. In Fig. 3, if you pull the loop in an East-West direction you will get a sheet bend. So the Eskimos had a loop, a bend and a binding knot.

In Figures A, B & C they are just variations of the Eskimo Bowline. Figure D is my tying of an Arctic Bowline. [*see pages 20 - 21 - Ed*.]

ESKIMO BOWLINES (VARIATIONS)

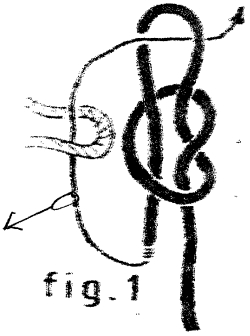


fig. 1

fig. 2

fig. 3

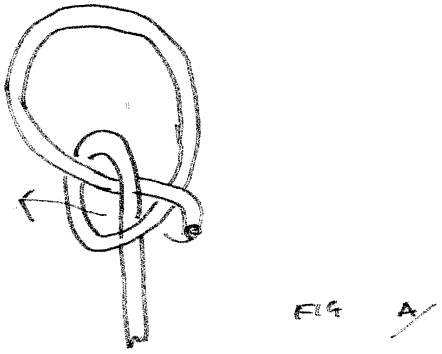


FIG A

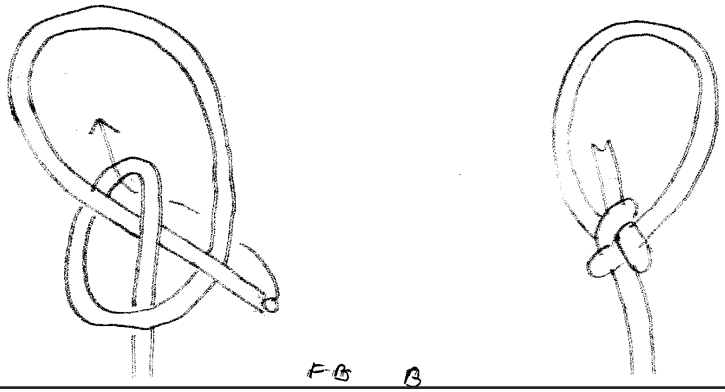


FIG B

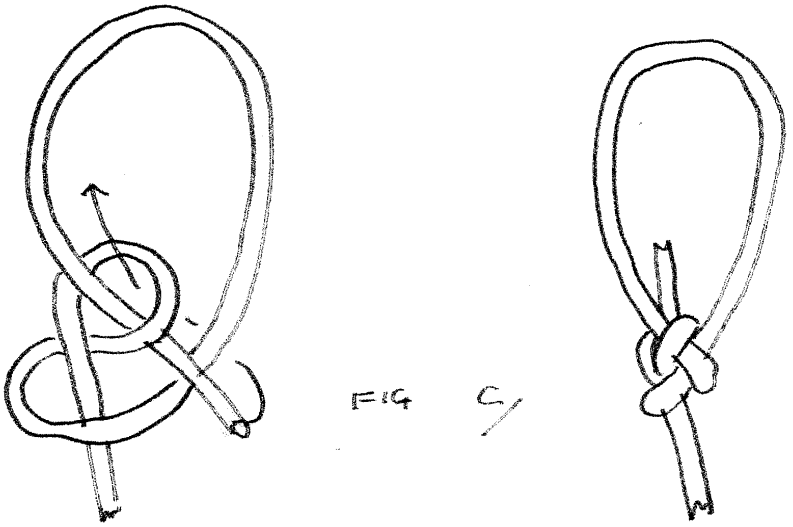


FIG C/

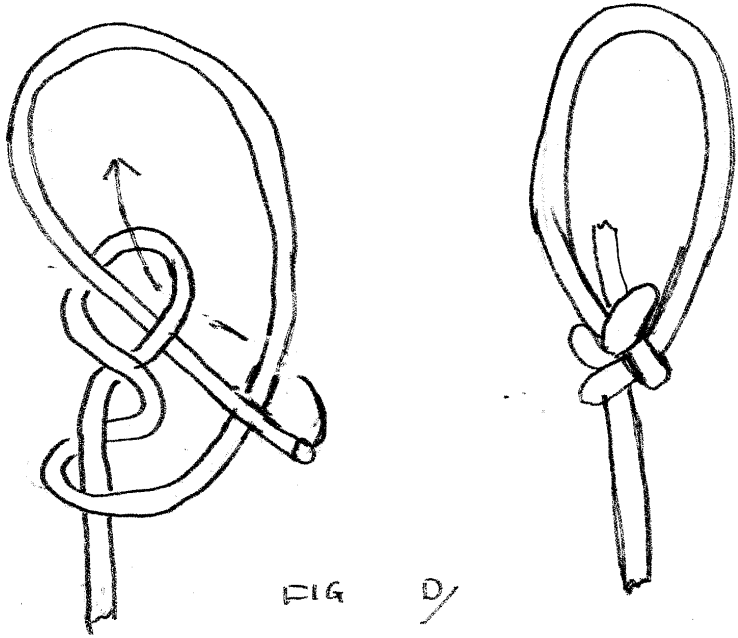


FIG D/

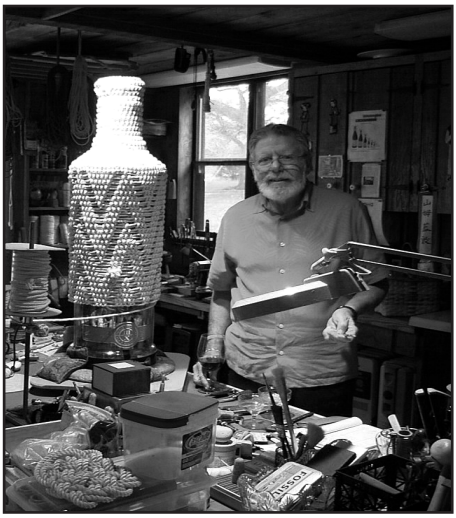
ARCTIC BOWLINE

The Hill Country Knotter

Story and photographs by Frank Brown

Sam Lanham has been an e-friend of mine for nearly ten years. The introduction by a mutual e-friend was memorable. I was informed Sam had built a 12 metre bell rope (that is 40 foot in old measurements), and this piece of information really got my interest. None of the fiddly little 30, 40, 50 centimetre jobs, but then Sam is from Texas. He lives near Fredericksburg among the tree covered rolling hills which give the area its appellation. He is not two metres tall, does not wear cowboy boots but he does know how to handle rope.

I had seen pictures of his work and was impressed, but when he sent me a covered bottle, I was a lot more than that. It was the work of an exceptionally skilled artisan and I am a very pleased and very proud owner of an example of his work. Another area of the craft Sam delves into with great mastery is flat work. His large, colourful crucifixes are a joy to behold.



His ditty bag handles are what one expects from such a craftsman.

While spending a few delight filled days with Sam and his trim, talented wife, "Missie", I learned that he had started his working life as a printer. This may seem a trade well divorced from knotting, but I believe there is a link. Printers are a precise lot with an eye for detail, and an appreciation of "what looks good". I believe the discipline of that profession has installed itself in Sam and shows out in his rope productions. Then again, he might be just talented.

Sam has a workshop most knotters would commit mayhem for. It started life as a cottage used by Sam and Missie as a dwelling while their house was being renovated. It now serves as a den *par excellence* as well as a handy place to house overnight visitors.

Getting back to the bell rope "dirty big", I understand it was a group effort. I don't know all the details, but in Sam's workshop there are some lengths of rope covered with all manner of coloured cords in a variety of patterns that shows the complexity of the task. The actual rope was worked on by a group of three knotters under Sam's lead. A small group of experienced knotters assisted in the project with helpful advice. The whole 12 metres was not covered, but about 4metres (14 foot) were decorated, and it took nearly two years to complete. The finished article now resides in the narthex [1] at the First Presbyterian Church, Mendocino, California. Go see if you can.
Sam's latest project is the covering of a big--- no huge--- bottle that started life as an advertising article. The amount of material and the hours spent are the sort of figures seen in that famous record book. How does one go about that sort of job? Answer; one row at a time, one row a day.
A small but significant item resides on a shelf. It is an exquisite variation of a multi-multi strand Mathew Walker. It is a real mind blower.
So if you are in the Texas Hill Country any time, I recommend you give my mate a call. I know you will be welcome, and I guarantee you will be impressed.

[1] "Narthex" means an antechamber of some early Christian churches - Ed.

Letter from a former (now re-joined) member

After several years of absence, I decided to re join the Guild, and I would like to offer you pictures of some of my work in knotting. Knotting board (face and back), tool boxes, one belt, knot boards, a ship's bell,... The white little "tower" (39 cm high, 21 cm diameter) including some spherical designs is the result of a challenge on creating spheres... Des Pawson should remember. This was many years ago, after he received a small piece of work during a trip to Portugal.

Hopefully some of my work will catch the eye of a Guild's specialist.....

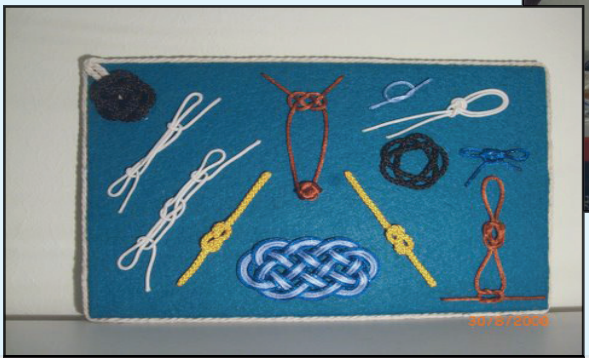
And if of some value, please feel free to publish the pictures.

Yours in knotting

Jean-Paul HASSELLE

[*See photographs of some of Jean-Paul's work on the center spread - Ed.*]

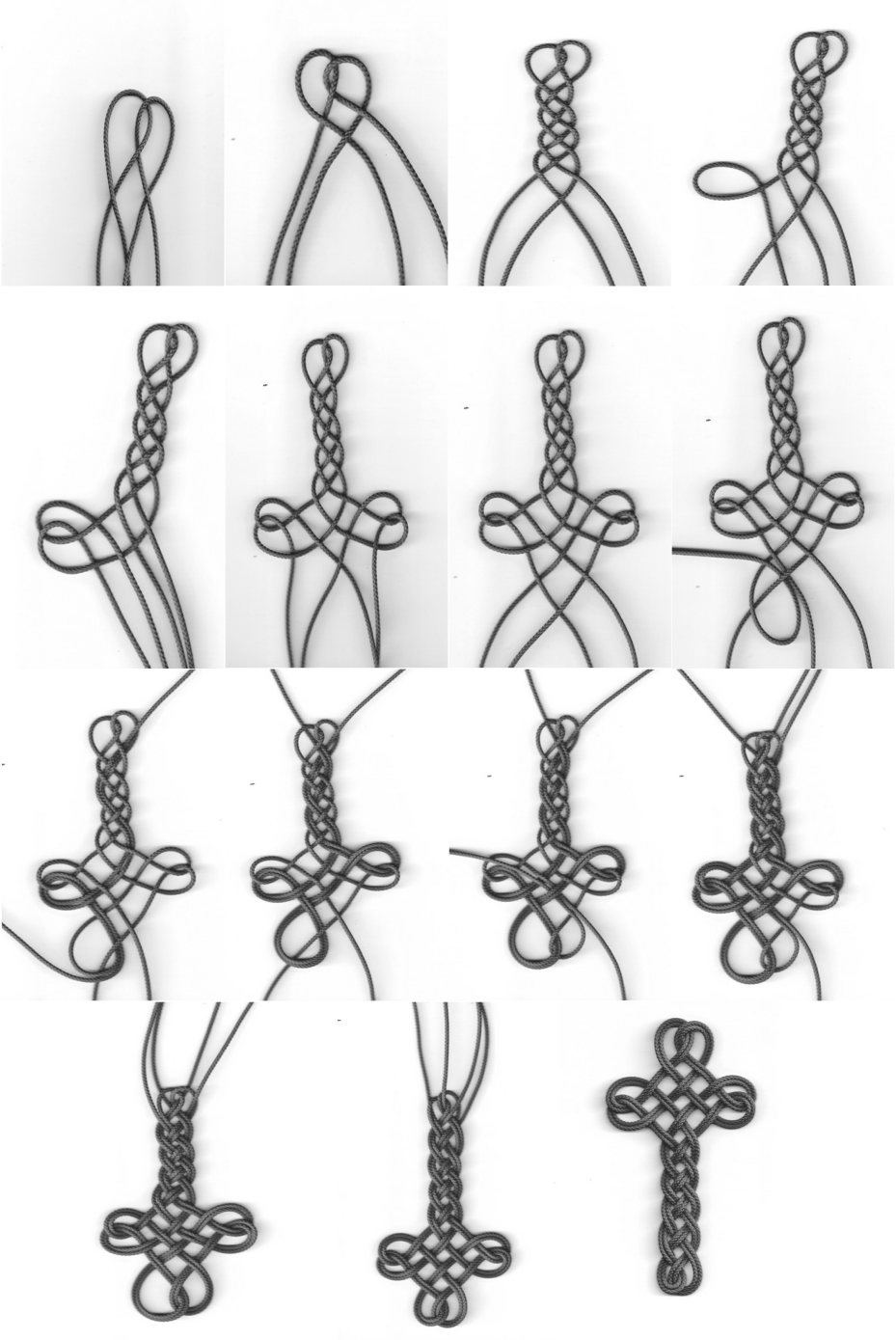
30/8/2008



THE MAELDUNE CROSS

(Old Saxon name for Maldon meaning cross on a hill)
by Sarah Ford [*Brian Field's apprentice at Maldon, continuing his work - Ed.*]

1. Two pieces of 2mm line about 45"long. (115cm for those of you who insist on using the new fangled measurements). Middle cords and interlink them as shown in the first photograph [*R loop on top of L loop at top - Ed.*].
2. Pull loops up so they are about the same size, then cross the inner cords as shown in photograph 2.
3. Using a four strand plait, create a further four bights (note regular over/under weave.) Try to keep the bights about the same size, although they can be adjusted later. See photograph 3.
4. Using the top, outer cord, make a loop off to one side, as shown in photograph 4.
5. Using the lower cord on the same side, create another loop, interlinked with the first. See photograph 5.
6. Repeat this for the other side, which will be a mirror image of the first side. (Again, note the regular over/under weave. Then cross the two inner strands, as shown in photograph 6.
7. Cross all cords again as seen in photograph 7.
8. Using one of the outer cords, form a loop as shown in photograph 8. This cord then follows the inner cord from the other side.
9. Continue following the inner cord to form a double strand until you reach the first loops you made. See photograph 9.
10. In photograph 9, you will see one cord going off to one side and two going down. Use the side cord to go round the last loop you made and continue following that strand until you reach the first loops again. See photograph 10.
11. Using the inner of the two remaining cords, create another loop, interlinked with the last one. This cord then follows the course of the remaining outer cord. See photograph 11.
12. Continue doubling this cord back to the beginning, as shown in photograph 12.
13. Use the last cord to follow the single remaining strand back to the beginning – photograph 13.
14. Adjust the loops and bights to tidy up the design and pull through any slack. See photograph 14.
15. Take one cord around each of the first loops to double them, then cut and seal all four cords with a lighter. See photograph 15.

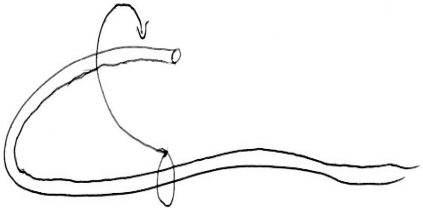


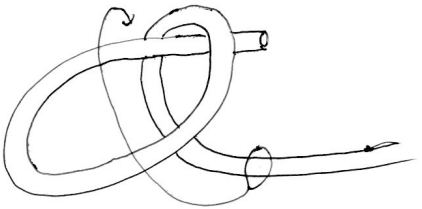
A Different Way of Tying A Chinese Bowline

by Sjoerd van Marle, Zuidlaren, Netherlands

Greetings,
Attached is a different way of tying the Chinese bowline. It is a practical knot and I find it easy to tie. Currently I use it as grip on the leash of my dog.
In Knotting Matters issue 99 (June 2008) a Chinese bowline is described, with the challenge [*by Brian Pilcher - Ed.*] to find a quicker way to tie it.
My way of tying this bend is by using the standing part to form most of the knot and only finishing the bend using the tamp [*tamp = working end* Ed.].

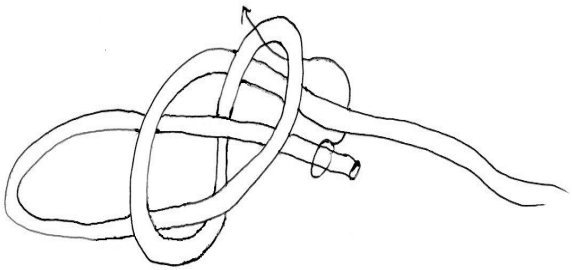
1.
Form a loop and take one turn around the end:





2. A second turn more to the loop, and ending parallel to the end.

3. Finish taking the end behind the standing part through the first turn.



World Port Days in Rotterdam, 6 and 7 September 2008

Like every year the Rotterdam Port Authority organizes what we call in Dutch "De Wereld Haven Dagen", which roughly translates to "World Port Days". This year it was already the 31st edition.
The Wereld Haven Dagen is a large, 3 day, annual maritime event which gives visitors the opportunity to get a glimpse behind the scenes of the Port and its surrounding industrial area, something which is normally not possible due to the nature of its activities.
The whole event is divided into three main core activities which are quay presentations given by various port companies, excursions to a vast number of port companies and nautical demonstrations of all kind which mostly take place on the water.
And then there is, amongst all this, a small port called "De Leuvehaven" which is now a museum and home to the Rotterdam maritime museum and the Rotterdam Port Museum. It is the latter one which in its turn is the home to the small boat called "De Hoop" which is, as you already might know, the venue for the monthly knot tyers meetings of the Dutch Branch.

The Wereld Haven Dagen is a very good opportunity to present the IGKT (and the Dutch branch) to the public, and all of this at no cost at all!! The organizing committee is providing the stands (booth) and our lunches for free, which is quite remarkable these days. About six to seven members of the Dutch branch were present during Saturday and Sunday to show their work and give demonstrations of knot tying to the public. People could try a few knots themselves on the knot tying table we had available and they could take a look inside the little boat as well to gaze at all the beautiful knotwork which is there on permanent display.

When I look back on this weekend I can only say we had a great time with overall good (sunny) weather, and a lot of interested people. I would suggest taking a look at the accompanying photographs to see for yourself.

Yours in knotting
André van der Salm, IGKT Dutch branch

[*Crowned bellropes by Dick Hollander; Huge covered bottle by Ben Asberg - Ed.*]

BOOK REVIEWS

Halter-Tying Success

By Diane Longanecker

A Step-by-Step Guide to Making Hand-Tied, Rope Halters for Horses

After having seen this book offered for sale in Troyer's Rope Catalog (1-800-872-0103 [in the USA]) for the last two or three years, I decided to buy it even though I already know how to tie these halters and have been doing so for over a decade. I'm glad I did, as this is an excellent addition to my knot-tying library.

Diane Longanecker has done a supurb job of writing this much needed book. She has done her homework well; not only does she know her subject well, but she has taken the time and effort to learn to teach it as well as she ties the halter.

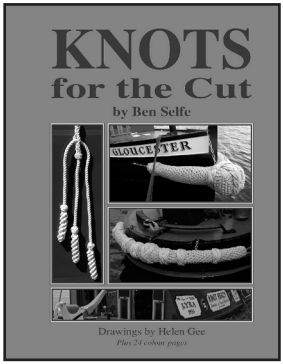
Her book is written in a clear, concise, logical manner that is easy to follow, even if you have no previous knowledge of knot tying. Armed with the information in this book and 20' of rope, you will soon be making custom fitting halters with confidence.

The book is presented in a ring type of binding that allows it to lay flat, no need to try holding the book open with one hand while trying to tie the halter with the other hand,and it is printed on a cardstock paper that will hold up to many hours of do-it-yourselfers studying its contents in less than library conditions.

Again a hearty congratulations to Diane for a job well done. Her book will be a good choice to add to an advanced knot tyer's library and an excellent choice for novice knot-tying horse owners that want to make high quality halters economically for their horses.

A good book well worth the money.

"Marline Spike Mike" Bromley
President,
P.A.B. of IGKT



Knots for the Cut by Ben Selfe

978-0-9557600-2-0
Reviewed by Trish Mills for Quicksilver Publications

As far as IGKT members are concerned, Ben Selfe's Knots for the Cut will be a knotting book plus. 'Cut' is the vernacular name for the canal, and the book is aimed at canal users on Britain's unique inland waterways. In simple straightforward language, and illustrated throughout with superbly clear and delightful original drawings by Helen Gee, Ben Selfe takes us through the basics of rope maintenance and how to moor your vessel. He shows how to make Turk's Heads for tillers and tables, ocean-plait mats for the floor and all the knots needed to achieve them. He introduces the idea of making your own bottle fenders and includes some fancy ropework such as a safety ladder, cabin strings, and (in colour) keyrings utilising the Star Knot.

For the more ambitious boat owner, there are detailed instructions and useful tips on how to make cores for such fenders as Buttons, Dwarf's Trousers and Tipcats, and how to cover them. "It's only blanket stitch," says Ben encouragingly. "You can soon learn how to do it."

There is a 24-page colour plate section, part of which is devoted to "Ben's Bights 'n Pieces". This includes the ropework he did for Ma Costa's barge in The Golden Compass, all of which ended up on the cutting room floor!

With a sturdy spiral binding and acetate outers for protection, Knots for the Cut reveals Ben's love of knot-tying, and his sailing background shows through too. Conveyed in a friendly, easy-to-follow style, it has the accessibility of a car manual and is destined to become a classic of the waterways.

Available from www.knotkrazy.co.uk for £12.50 plus £2.50 post & packing.
Not available through Amazon.

ECO-WARRIOR

(*From Knotty Potty & Other Pithy Poems for Knotting Devotees*)

by Jennifer Wren, 2006

Eco-warrior, hear my cry
Please don't let the planet die!
Our world is now just three degrees
from global melt-down sea crises.

Eco-warrior, learn knots now,
The Knotting Guilld can show you how,
(Knots do not add to pollution
and so are part of the solution.)

Eco-warrior, join our band.
Help us to make folk understand
Knots, as part of a bigger plan,
may mitigate Earth's rape by Man.

Branch Lines

The East Anglian Branch

Meeting held at the Museum of East Anglian Rural Life, Stowmarket, Suffolk September 27th 2008

by John Halifax (Sec.) and Des Pawson

Sixteen members, friends and associates from Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk attended the autumn meeting and were welcomed by the inimitable "Tuffy Turner" who conducted the meeting, ably assisted by the members.

The meeting started with two minutes of silence in memory of Audrey Addis and Duncan Bolt, who had died since our last meeting.

Norwich member Tony Lee suggested an on-going subject for each meeting when members would be invited to discuss "My Favourite Knot" and why it was such. Alison Swinscoe spoke up immediately for the sheepshank and how it was used so often with the Guides for camping.

This was followed by some discussion as to the history and its name, a suggestion being that perhaps it was originally a SHEET SHANK.

The main topic for the day had been changed to Macrame and Square Knotting or "Something That Could Be Worn" as originally planned for the late Duncan Bolt's Summer Gathering.

Des Pawson spoke of the history of macrame in print, from Louisa Walker in 1896 the various ladies part works of the early 20th century and the role played by Herwig & Co. of New York in promoting square knotting for sailors from 1930 - 1970. He also showed examples of work by many people from his collection. John Halifax showed a stand he had made for working on hangings. Liz Pawson's lamps and shades were much admired as was a belt by Norman Southgate. Geoff Youngman showed his drawn threadwork, Maureen Southgate a miniature hammock and other members displayed "Monkey's Fists" and a fender.

Irene Warner from Essex displayed a small simple improvised "weaving loom" for children made from a cardboard box frame, two bamboo kebab sticks to support the sides of the weft plies and plastic comb sections from a hair brush at the top and bottom of the framework for the vertical warp plies. Ingenious!

The meeting finished with Tuffy wishing all Knot Tyers a Happy Christmas.

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Saturday the 18th of April, 2009 again in Stowmarket, when it was agreed by members that the topic of the Spring meeting would be "Animals and animal related knots" to be interpreted as widely as possible.

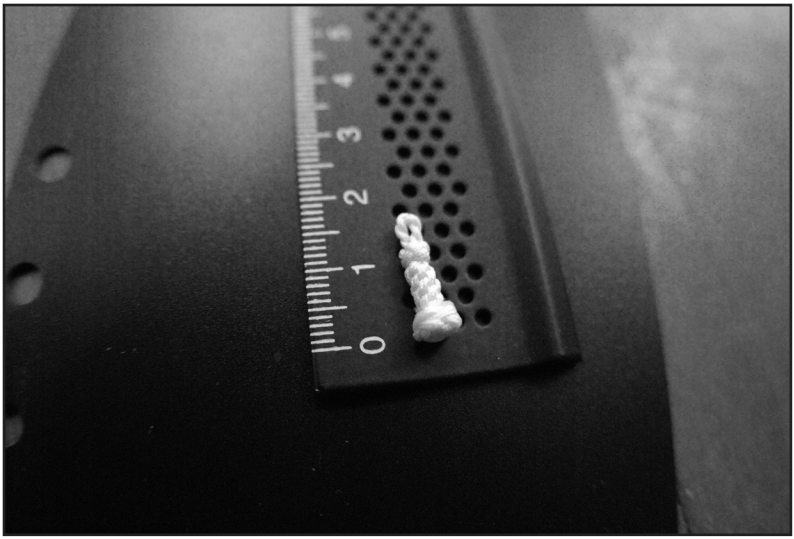
West Yorkshire Branch

by David Pearson

We have had our display-stand out at three canal festivals this year; Skipton, which is a very large three day event though we were only able to do one day due to distance; Stainforth was a small one day event as was Dewsbury. Our numbers of Guild members at each event averaged ten. Whilst this may be over-staffed for small events, we are made very welcome by the organizers and it serves as another meeting for our members where we can chat and exchange ideas. There is an obvious need for events of this kind to share our interest with the public and for knotting get-togethers.

We are having another Branch meeting on Sunday the 16th of November, 2008. Any member wishing to attend who is not on my mailing list please get in touch with me if you want to know details.

Ed.: Although Yorkshire and the Midlands are the best of friends, sometimes one appears to do more with less. As if to prove the point, Midlands Branch member Bruce Turley sent the photograph below of one of his bellropes, as played by Tinkerbell, I think, and yes, that is a ruler measuring 15 millimetres - have you seen the size of his fingers?!



Midlands Branch

From our Midlands Stringer

It's been a busy summer for the Midlands branch this year. Despite the poor weather, we started on a beautiful sunny evening in the back yard of Ma Pardoe's pub, in the heart of the Black Country[1] at Netherton. Tim Newey-IGKT needed to replace the ropes used for lowering beer barrels into the cellar from his brewery. The Branch members duly obliged and, armed with fids and pints of 'Old Swan,' got to work. Duty done, we were then treated to a trip around the brewery, one of the few traditional breweries still working in the Black Country.

Later on in June, the branch held some knot training sessions for the Girl Guides. They were held over two night's spread over a fortnight. The first session consisted of 11 Rover Guides and leaders. Taking the session for the Midlands branch were Bill Newey, Joe Chatten and Bruce Turley. This session went quite well; the object was for the Rover Guides and leaders to master the monkey's fist and help us with the girls in two weeks. The second session had around 30 guides wanting to try monkey's fists. There for the Branch were Bill Newey, Nick Jones and Bruce Turley; unfortunately Joe could not make it. With the help of the Rover Guides and leaders from the previous week we managed to get all the girls to tie a monkey's fist keyring using a four-pronged jig. It proved to be a big success and all the girls went home with a keyring.

At the beginning of August, it was back to the normal meeting. It was one of the best-attended meetings of the year, with around 15 members attending, including a number of guests who were in the area. This time the subject was flat mats. Colin Grundy led the session making ocean plaits with 12mm Manila. Later in the month, the branch hosted the Guild stand at the Inland Waterways Association National Festival held this year at nearby Wolverhampton. Despite the very poor weather in the run up to the three day show, the sun turned out and a steady stream of visitors came to the stand. Many were children taking part in the Wild over Waterways (WoW) educational challenge. Bill Newey and Bruce Turley were both kept busy helping the children make rope. Also assisting on the stand were Gordon Perry, Sue and Roy Morris, Alex Carson, Dave and Ann Walker and Linda Turley.

[1] The Black Country is an area of the UK Midlands uniquely respected by the locals and visitors as separate from nearby conurbations. ***Ed.***

Working hard on splicing lines (and a pint or two) at Ma Pardoe's pub are: L to R Patrick O'Reilly, Colin Grundy, Jane Bamford, Joe Chatten, Brian Essex, Nick Jones, Linda Turley, Joyce Newey, Bill Newey, Tim Newey.

Pacific Americas Branch

by Jimmy Ray Williams

We in the PAB have had a pretty busy summer with the Tall Ships Festival up and down the west coast. We were fortunate enough to have representation at several of the ports that were welcoming the American Sail Training Association (ASTA) ships including San Francisco, Ventura (aka Channel Islands), Los Angeles (aka San Pedro) and San Diego & Dana Point. We are indebted to Otto Loggers, Education Director of ASTA, for encouraging our participation and providing tent space and tables for us to work with.

Frank Brown's watch - just what time is it?
See next page.....

Lindsey Philpott, Sue and Bob Bosch were manning our table of displays at the San Francisco Fest. There were 16,000 folks (approximately) that attended the festival and many of them stopped by our booth with comments and questions. Bob showed the kids how to make mats while Lindsey kept them busy making "rope-on-two-sticks", which parents and kids alike seemed to enjoy. One of the big thrills for the kids was to see the US Coastguard "Eagle" a bark (barque), which the USCG refers to as a cutter, with its hundreds of lines and tall rigging.

The ships from San Francisco then made their appearance in the Channel Islands Harbor near Ventura, California. Mr. & Mrs. Mike Bromley, Marie Ortiz, Vicki Paul and Lindsey Philpott were in attendance at our ASTA-provided booth there. Marie, Vicki and Mike brought some great pieces to look at, including the Branch collection and some pieces we have not seen before from Marie's own work. An impromptu rope-making demonstration with kids and adults alike sharing in the tasks, yet again proved to be a favorite.Then, on down to Los Angeles (actually – San Pedro), where several of us were able to attend after our AGM. Our new President is Mike Bromley, who is a farrier and blacksmith. Read his book review in this month's KM. Mike Bromley, Lindsey Philpott, Jose Hernandez-Juviel, Vicki Paul, Joe Soanes, Tom Mortell, Anthony Xanthis, Jimmy Williams, Lily Morales and others were able to "work" the crowd there. There were a lot of folks that stopped by our display with knotty questions. Several crew members from the various ships stopped by to as some of the more experienced members questions about knotting. We were happy to welcome Maggie Machado and her husband Doug for another visit with us (they attended our 10th anniversary AGM last year). Maggie displayed her "blastingmats" as shown to her by Jose, and the technique used in making them. We were also privileged to have Frank Brown and his wife Lynn visit with us from Tasmania. They were there for all three days of the festival. Frank's menagerie of small animals concocted from small line was a big hit with a lot of the visitors to our booth. See above for Frank's astounding Seiko watch-face [it's time to tie one on!]!
Then the festival moved on to San Diego where Lindsey and Charlie helped visitors to the brig Pilgrim understand how to make Turk's Head bracelets and monkey's fist key-rings. At times it seemed as if all the kids in the world came by! We had a very good visit with the sailors and officers from the Colombian navy's full-rigged ship "Gloria" to show us their fancy knotwork and they invited Lindsey and Charlie aboard for a special below-decks visit. Also present in San Diego was the replica "Bounty", a beautiful ship, equipped with plants that were supposed to look like breadfruit trees – they were actually ficus trees we think!

And finally we went to Dana Point for the Toshiba Tall Ships Festival – it has been a busy summer! There is always a big crowd there at Dana Point. This time was no exception. We had Mike Bromley, Charlie Bell, Lindsey Philpott, & Jimmy Wil

liams fielding all the questions this time.
I am always surprised at the interest shown in knotting by the general public. Some actually use knots in their chosen profession. One in particular, an arborist, shared some knots with us.

Just last weekend (Oct. 19) we had a small display at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Autumn Sea Fest. Darrell Ausherman, Lindsey, Jose & I held down the fort for this one.
Also that weekend (Oct. 19), our new President, Mike Bromley, had a display down in Descanso, California, at the Vaquero Days Western Heritage Festival. That one leans more towards the old west ranching activities. I haven't spoken to Mike yet about his experience there, but if I can get to him in time, I'll try to include some of his comments in the next Branch Lines.

One last thing: for the weekend of Oct. 19. Vicki Paul held a class for a bunch of Sea Cadets up at Point Mugu, near Ventura, California. They had contacted her regarding instructions on creating lanyards for the cadets. I'll just include some of her comments here . . .
"*The sea cadets were great! They had two groups (squadrons?) separating the older and younger. They wore fatigues Saturday and part of today and were in dress part of today, too. Their lanyards will be for their dress uniforms so they can suspend a Bosun's pipe. In addition to receiving a medal of their unit, I got to keep a pipe as well. There was a super collection of adults--mostly parents. The kids ranged from geniuses with NO manual dexterity to geniuses with, a homecoming princess who tucked her big night in after cadetting on Saturday (super-achiever, she, and return to finish her lanyard today), and a wonderful assortment of adolescents who had talents and much more adult support than I get to see at prison…! It was all cool. Saturday we got everyone started and productive and transitioned to the joints. It was well I went back today to deal with leftover details. There were plenty.*"

That was a busy weekend! Perhaps I should explain here that Vicki works at a prison. She indicated that there were some pictures of the activities and I have posted one on the next page - more to come in the near future!

Above: Bob Bosch of Eureka, California is seen showing kids how to tie one on!

Some of Vicki Paul's students in their uniforms getting first-hand advice on how to make the transitions from Vicki, lower right.

STOP PRESS!

Education Matters

Please support our education committee with the following courses which will be held at the Weald and Downland Museum West Sussex.
Charlie Tyrrell will be running the following courses:

Rope Work **Sunday 22nd February 2009**

Advanced Ropework **Saturday 21st March 2009**

Please look at the Weald and Downland Museum web site for further details at http://www.wealddown.co.uk - type it into your web browser!

ATTENTION!!

Special Knot-Tying Workshop at the Weald and Downland Museum to be held almost exclusively for the IGKT.

Day workshop Saturday 25th April 2009. Tutorials morning and afternoon. Book for the full day via the Weald and Downland Museum. More details to be published on the IGKT website and the Weald and Downland Museum website in the near future. We are very lucky that the Museum is sponsoring this event and a special discount is being offered to Guild Members.

Please support this event as it will only run if we have sufficient minimum numbers.

Tutorials to include:
Decorative Ropework for narrowboaters - morning session (Tutor Ken Nelson)
Decorative Ropework for narrowboaters - afternoon session (Tutor Ken Nelson)
Netting morning and afternoon session (Tutor John Hutcheon)
Splicing braid on braid (Tutor Colin Grundy)
Splicing three strand rope (Tutor Colin Grundy)
Braiding - morning and afternoon session (Tutor Emma O'Driscoll)
Side fenders in Manila (Tutor Charlie Tyrrell)
Basic Bell ropes (Tutor Charlie Tyrrell)

Letters from New Zealand

We have just returned from the trip-of-a-lifetime in New Zealand, and I thought you might like to see what I think may be the southern-most location in the world for a big ropework project. As you see, it is situated at the Bluff Marine Training Centre, which is at the southern tip of South Island, New Zealand - for those with Google Earth, it is at 46degrees 35'53.61"NS 168degrees 20'41.51" E. (sorry my computer doesn't do degrees!) It is between the ferry point to Stewart Island and the car park.

I tried to find out who had created it, but no-one was at the Training Centre at the time. It must have been there for some time, as it was well worn. I thought, initially, that it was crown hitching on the main post, but on closer examination it turns out to be half hitching. There are two knotted posts, and a large area with rope linking on posts with 3-lead turks heads.

Can anyone beat this for location? If you go due East, the first stop is Chile, if you go due West, first stop is Argentina.

with best wishes,

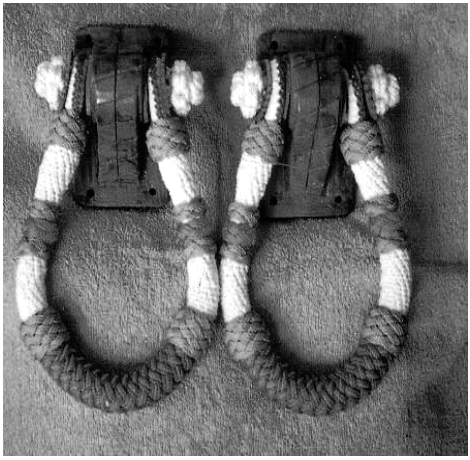
yours sincerely,

Diana Wainman.

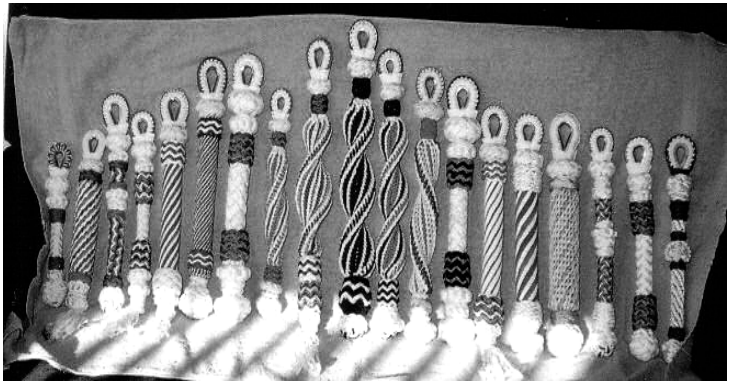
Kia Ora, Colin.
[Colin received this notice from Tony just prior to finishing his spell as editor - Ed.]

On behalf of the New Zealand Chapter of the International Guild of Knot Tyers, I would like to express our gratitude to you and Jane for the wonderful way in which you have updated "Knotting Matters" and continued to publish material catering for the wide range of tastes within the "Friendly Guild"!

For those of us far removed from much of the Guild's activities, "Knotting Matters" remains the hawser which holds us together. We also wish Lindsey all our very best wishes for the time that he is Editor and assure him that from time to time we will continue to send him news of things happening in Aotearoa / New Zealand.



Our Founding Chapter President (and these days our President Emeritus), Roger Carter continues to contribute to "Knotting Matters"; Pat Cunningham continues to make beautiful mats and splice large mooring ropes for our Headquarters, the floating crane, the "Hikitia", Jack Sheehan is fully engaged these days doing engineering works on the crane, in preparation for a sea voyage to Lyttleton for dry docking in August / September; Roderick Orrah has sent me photos of some lovely work making bell ropes and chest beckets, which I have attached to this message; Richard Hodge has been busy as usual, creating new dimensions to his varied decorative works and I continue to do aerial restoration work on the crane.



All the very best to our friends throughout the Guild.

Tony Fisher
Chief Rigger Hikitia, President, New Zealand Chapter,
International Guild of Knot Tyers

Bell Ropes.

It was a heading just like the above which enticed me to join the Guild. A small advertisement about the Guild had been placed in the Navy News October 1982 by Geoff Budworth, and it had me picking up the telephone; of course, the rest is history. I am hoping that the same heading 'Bell Ropes' will help me in my present quest.

During Knot Year 2K2, the IGKT 20 year milestone, we brought together a world-wide collection of the Guild Members' skill of knot craft, and one display was mainly in the form of bell ropes. As it had been my idea to organise this collection I felt that I should also participate and planned on making two, in my spare time whilst the other part of my brain was engaged with putting together the International 2K2 event. As I like my bell ropes to have a story, both were identically made with seven Star Knots in white, each star had seven points; and they in turn had seven, seven part Turks Heads in dark navy interspaced between the stars (for the night sky). One bell rope was then presented to the Landlord of the' Seven Star Inn' at Petersfield, England, together with its story, plus details of the Guild. The second bell rope was then part of our display at the 2K2 event in Fareham.

After the event I took time off from the Council, and rather than have our wonderful display reside in a cardboard box in my garage, I passed the collection to the Council for display elsewhere. They then made it more manageable by splitting it into smaller display units so it could reach a wider audience. It was then sent 'up north' to enhance the shows that they put on up there.

So my quest is, does anybody out there have a white & blue bell rope with seven stars on it in their display box? Reason being that every time we are at a show with the Solent Branch and folks say, "So which one did you make?" I answer "er um…., I made a special one with seven stars and it is somewhere." So, have I to make a third one to carry on my story, or is there someone out there that can help me with my quest?

Yours Aye,

Ken.

PS. If the ransom is a small rum, I shall meet you at the bar, but I have a photo of the pair, and the spec drawing for a match. [*see facing page for the photographs – Ed.*]

Ken Yalden with the landlord of the Seven Stars in Stroud.

The two bellropes prior to their "departure" - details deliberately kept fuzzy!

Knotting Diary and Calendar

GUILD MEETINGS

AGM & GATHERING 2009
Saturday May 9th, 2009 &
Sunday May 10th, 2009
Sea Cadets Centre Training ship "Orion"
River Trent, Nottingham
UK
Gather on Friday night (May 8, 2009)

Half-Yearly General Meeting 2009
Weekend of October 10th/11th, 2009
New Bedford, Mass., USA
Watch this space for further details

Branch Meetings

Alaskan Branch
Every Wednesday evening 6:30 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E. 19th Avenue, Anchorage
Contact: Mike Livingstone
Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch
18th April, 2009
Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket
Suffolk
Contact: John Halifax
Tel: 01502 519 1233
e-mail: johnendeavor-knots@tiscali.co.uk

Midlands Branch
9th February, 2009 - Grommets by BT
followed by a draw for the next pot luck from Ashley's for April 13th
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

Netherlands
Every last Saturday of the month (except December)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
Tel: 078 614-6002

Netherlands Special Meeting
October 31, November 1, 2009
De Hoop & Haven Museum
Rotterdam
Contact: Willeke van der Ham
e-mail: willeke@knopen.ismijnhobby.nl

North West Branch
Quarry Bank Mill Styal, Nr. Manchester
Contact: Dave Walker
Tel: 01244 682117

North American Branch - East Region
Contact: None available at press time
Tel:

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month, except July and August
Los Angeles Maritime Institute
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: 1-310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@yahoo.com

Solent Branch
February 10th, 2009 @ 7:30 pm
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: 023 9225 9280

Sussex Branch
1st Monday of every other month
January 5th, 2009; 8 pm
Sussex Yacht Club
Contact: Charlie Tyrrell
Tel: 01798 344258

Sweden
Contact: Olof Nystrom
Gavle (150 km N. of Stockholm)
Tel: See handbook

West Country Knotters
Last Saturday of odd months
January 31st, 2009 @ 1300 hrs
Tytherington, Nr. Bristol
Contact: Richard Hopkins
Tel: 0117 986 7146

West Yorkshire Branch
Provisionally the Ides of March, 2009
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

To place YOUR Branch meeting, location, time, date, duration, special instructions, etc. in Knotting Matters, contact the editor by regular mails or by e-mail. Deadline dates are given below.

Deadline Dates

Until further notice, the deadlines for getting material to the Editor are as follows:

For the March issue	1st of February
For the June issue	1st of May
For the September issue	1st of August
For the December issue	1st of November

NEW KNOT ANNOUNCED!!

Name:	Feedback Loop
Purpose:	Helping the Editor
How To Tie:	Tell the Ed what works for you, what doesn't
Place to Use:	Telephone, e-mail, letter in a bottle if you like